

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 17 and 22 are independent. Claim 16 has been cancelled.

Entry of this amendment is requested pursuant to 35 USC 116 as it cancels claims, namely claim 16, and incorporates the allowable subject matter of the cancelled claim into independent claims, reducing the issues for consideration on appeal.

On page 14 of the Office Action, claims 7, 10 and 12 and 16 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Independent claims 1 and 22 have been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of claim 16. Accordingly, claims 1-15 and 22-24 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Only the rejections relating to claims 17-21 are discussed below.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,281,843 (Evtiushkine).

Claim 17 is directed to a bow tie coupler with a matching network having at least two discrete elements. Basis for this feature is in claim 12 as originally filed. Accordingly, no new search is required.

In Fig. 3, described at column 4, lines 8-18, Evtiushkine shows feeder 26 comprised of line-balance converter 260 for impedance balancing, and matching element 262 for impedance matching. Feeder 26 is formed of conductive strips connected together. Since Evtiushkine's conductive strips are connected together, they teach away from the claimed "at least two discrete elements". Since Evtiushkine fails to show or suggest the matching network having at least two discrete elements as specifically recited in claim 17, claim 17 is not anticipated by Evtiushkine.

Claim 21, in depending from claim 17, incorporates all of its features and so claim 21 is patentably distinguished from Evtioushchine for the reasons discussed above.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 21 as being anticipated by Evtioushchine is requested.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-5, 8, 14, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,265,977 (Vega).

Since Vega fails to show or suggest the matching network having at least two discrete elements as specifically recited in claim 17, claim 17 is not anticipated by Vega.

Claim 18, in depending from claims 17, includes the features of its parent claim, and so is not anticipated by Vega.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5, 8, 14, 17 and 18 as being anticipated by Vega is requested.

On page 7 of the Office Action, claims 15, 19, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Evtioushchine and U.S. Patent No. 6,842,141 (Suh).

Each of Evtioushchine and Suh fails to show or suggest the matching network having at least two discrete elements, as recited in claim 17, and incorporated in claim 19 by virtue of its dependence therefrom. Thus, claim 19 is not made obvious by any proper combination of Evtioushchine and Suh.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15, 19, 22 and 24 as obvious over Evtioushchine and Suh is requested.

On page 8 of the Office Action, claim 20 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Evtioushchine and U.S. Patent No. 5,293,175 (Hemmie).

Each of Evtioushkine and Hemmie fails to show or suggest the matching network having at least two discrete elements, as recited in claim 17, and incorporated in claim 20 by virtue of its dependence therefrom. Thus, claim 20 is not made obvious by any proper combination of Evtioushkine and Hemmie.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20 as obvious over Evtioushkine and Hemmie is requested.

On page 9 of the Office Action, claims 15, 19, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Vega and Suh.

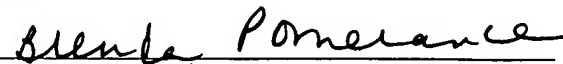
Each of Vega and Suh fails to show or suggest the matching network having at least two discrete elements, as recited in claim 17, and incorporated in claim 19 by virtue of its dependence therefrom. Thus, claim 19 is not made obvious by any proper combination of Vega and Suh.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15, 19, 22 and 23 as obvious over Vega and Suh is requested.

A Notice of Allowance is solicited. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to discuss any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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